



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/669,819	09/26/2000	Vellore T. Vetrivelkumaran	4254 15-752	4241

22971 7590 12/01/2005

MICROSOFT CORPORATION
ATTN: PATENT GROUP DOCKETING DEPARTMENT
ONE MICROSOFT WAY
REDMOND, WA 98052-6399

EXAMINER

POLLACK, MELVIN H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2145

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/669,819	Applicant(s) VETRIVELKUMARAN ET AL.	
	Examiner Melvin H. Pollack	Art Unit 2145	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 September 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,6,9,15-17,19-22 and 26-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,6,9,15-17,19-22 and 26-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 September 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>see attached office action</u> . |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-4, 6, 9, 15-17, 19-22, and 26-33 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
2. The 112 rejections have been withdrawn in light of the amendment and remarks.
3. The 103 rejections have been modified in light of the change of scope for all independent claims sufficient to require new search and consideration.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-4, 6, 15, 17, 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Horman (6,785,706).
5. For claims 1, 17, 21, Horman teaches a method and system (abstract) for enabling updating (col. 1, line 1 – col. 2, line 10) of client computers (Fig. 4, #14) coupleable by a network (Fig. 4, #20) to a server computer (Fig. 4, #11), the method comprising:
 - a. At the server computer, automatically identifying a configuration change of the server computer (Fig. 5A, #36; col. 2, lines 25-40);
 - b. Automatically identifying at least one client configuration change that is called for, by the configuration change of the server computer, for the client computers to use the server computer as reconfigured according to the configuration change of the server computer (col. 9, lines 5-25; col. 11, line 25 – col. 14, line 50); and

- c. Transmitting a status message to a client computer (col. 9, lines 25-30), the status message including an indication that a client configuration change is called for (col. 2, lines 40-65), where the message is capable of being interacted with by a user of the client computer to initiate the one client configuration change on the client computer (col. 9, lines 30-45).
6. For claim 2, Horman teaches determining if the identified at last one client configuration change is required to be made at the client computers, and transmitting the status message only if the identified at least one client configuration change is required to be made at the client computers (Fig. 5B, #34).
7. For claims 3, 19, Horman teaches transmitting the status message to the client computer in response to periodic polling of the server's configuration status by the client computer (col. 8, line 60 – col. 9, line 5).
8. For claim 4, Horman teaches that transmitting the status message further comprises broadcasting the status message to the client computers (col. 5, lines 40-65; col. 10, lines 25-65).
9. For claims 6, 20, Horman teaches that the status message further comprises a list of updated server computer status (col. 12, line 60 – col. 13, line 15).
10. For claim 15, Horman teaches a read-only status component for exposing a detailed listing of the changed configuration of said server to the one or more client configuration changes (Fig. 3, #12), where the listing is provided to the one or more clients responsive to a request from the one or more clients actuated using the status message (Fig. 5C, #47).

Art Unit: 2145

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

12. Claims 9, 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horman as applied to claims 1, 21 above, and further in view of LaRue et al. (6,449,622).

13. For claims 9, 22, Horman does not expressly disclose causing a message to be displayed at the client computer, the message identifying each client configuration change to be made to the client computer based on the configuration change of the server computer. Horman does teach the tracking of client configuration changes (col. 6, lines 5-15; col. 9, lines 1-45). LaRue teaches a method and system (abstract) of database configuration and synchronization (col. 1, line 1 – col. 6, line 30) in which the client displays the list of changes (col. 37, lines 35-55). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have performed the display function in order to speed up the acknowledgement process (col. 37, lines 43-44).

14. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horman as applied to claim 15 above, and further in view of Glatt et al. (US 2005/0097225).

15. For claims 16, 26-31, and 33, Horman does not expressly disclose that the communications component is a DCOM server component having an interface exposed to a DCOM client residing on the one or more client computers. Glatt teaches a method and system (abstract) of configuration and synchronization (Paras. 1 – 12) between a server and a client (Para. 25), in which both utilize DCOM interfaces (Para. 26). At the time the invention was

Art Unit: 2145

made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have added DCOM interfaces as they are useful in the handling and implementation of Horman's scripting languages (Para. 27).

16. For claims 26, 33, Horman teaches a method and system (abstract) for updating a configuration (col. 1, line 1 – col. 2, line 10) of a client computer (Fig. 3, #14) in response to a reconfiguration (col. 2, lines 25-45) of a network server computer (Fig. 3, #11), the method comprising:

- a. Receiving a notification from the server computer that at least one of multiple server configuration settings has been updated (Fig. 5A, #32), the server configuration settings comprising settings that affect how client computers interoperate with the server computer (col. 11, line 35 – col. 14, line 40);
- b. Determining an updated status of the multiple server configuration settings (col. 5, line 55 – col. 6, line 25); and
- c. Reconfiguring the client computer (Figs. 5b and 5c).

17. Horman does not expressly disclose displaying a list of client reconfiguration choices corresponding to the updated server status of the multiple server configuration settings, receiving user input to accept or modify the list of client reconfiguration choices, and displaying a command button which, when actuated, causes a reconfiguring of the client computer based upon the list of client reconfiguration choices. Glatt teaches a GUI and configuration wizard to list and choose configuration choices (Figs. 4A and 4B), including a Finish button (Fig. 4B) that causes the reconfiguration of a client (Para. 32) based upon these choices (Figs. 3 and 9). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have added Glatt GUIs to Horman in order to simplify synchronization setups and streamline the setup process (Para. 6).

Art Unit: 2145

18. For claim 27, Horman does not expressly disclose displaying a list of client reconfiguration choices further comprises displaying a list of checkboxes which allow the user to select desired client reconfiguration choices from the list of client reconfiguration choices. Glatt teaches this limitation (Fig. 4B, boxes near certain options). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have added Glatt GUIs to Horman in order to simplify synchronization setups and streamline the setup process (Para. 6).

19. For claim 28, Horman does not expressly disclose that the checkboxes have an initial state of being either checked or unchecked based on a sensed configuration of the server computer. Glatt teaches this limitation (Fig. 4B, boxes near certain options). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have added Glatt GUIs to Horman in order to simplify synchronization setups and streamline the setup process (Para. 6).

20. For claim 29, Horman teaches that at least one option relates to a disk drive configuration on the client for sharing access to a disk drive on the network (Fig. 2, #60; col. 5, lines 5-25).

21. For claim 30, Horman teaches that at least one option relates to adding shared Internet access through a server connection to the Internet by means of communications with the server over a network (col. 10, lines 5-20).

22. For claim 31, Horman teaches that at least one option relates to adding secure access to services of the server from the client computer by means of network password protection (col. 8, lines 10-35; col. 9, lines 5-20).

23. Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horman and Glatt as applied to claim 27 above, and further in view of Mann et al. (6,922,722).

Art Unit: 2145

24. For claim 32, Horman and Glatt do not expressly disclose that at least one checkbox relates to a printer reconfiguration on the client computer based on a presence of a printer coupled to a network. Mann teaches a method (abstract) of client configuration and synchronization (col. 1, line 1 – col. 2, line 20) that includes printer reconfiguration (col. 5, lines 10-11). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have added printer reconfiguration to Horman and Glatt in order to provide peripheral support (col. 1, lines 35-40).

Conclusion

25. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. They disclose multiple methods of client reconfiguration in response to server changes, including changes of data within the server.

26. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Art Unit: 2145

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melvin H. Pollack whose telephone number is (571) 272-3887.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Cardone can be reached on (571) 272-3933. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MHP
22 November 2005


ZARNI MAUNG
ADVISORY PATENT EXAMINER